

The Marquee

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From the President. . .

Greetings! I must confess to feeling a bit overwhelmed by the actuality of leading the Association of Kansas Theatre as your president and have been wondering somewhat what I've gotten myself into! Then it occurs to me, I've gotten myself into a group of people I'm proud to call friends and colleagues, who all share my passion for theatre. So, not to worry. I look forward to the coming year (or years, if I follow in the footsteps of my illustrious predecessor!)

We all have a lot to look forward to in AKT. Just because it isn't an ACCT-Fest year doesn't mean there isn't any reason to get together. In fact, there are even more opportunities to get together with a number of theatre divisions when competition isn't the focus of activities. Plans are underway

for professional and university auditions, a community theatre/educational theatre conclave with showcases and workshops, and something for the new historic theatre preservation/presenters group, plus planning for Kansas ACCT-Festival '99.

Now is the time to renew your membership in AKT if you haven't already. If you help make theatre happen in Kansas, you should belong to AKT! Encourage others in your theatre to join AKT as well. I believe that our current membership is merely a small fraction of the people who make theatre happen in Kansas. Wouldn't it be something if we were all in a statewide network of theatres, all working together to spread the art of theatre to all Kansans? The more theatre people we can connect with, the better we'll be able to do it. As AKT members across the state you are in the best position to help your organization grow. Join AKT for another great year now and tell all of your friends about AKT.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the upcoming year, whether it is at auditions in Kansas City in February or at a conclave in Topeka in April. I'm excited at the prospect of being part of Kansas Theatre as we move into the new millennium. We are the future of theatre in Kansas!

Sincerely,

Deb Wall, AKT President

From the Executive Director. . . .

This is a fun and fascinating year. I am really enjoying working with Eric Hayashi on visions for the future of AKT and the arts in Kansas in general. Eric set up a meeting with Twink Lynch which was very helpful in putting into perspective the history of AKT and consequently the future of AKT.

We are a service organization and the nature of that service is constantly changing. We clearly provide a very necessary service to Community Theatres during AACT/FEST years (the strongest relationship of our history.) We have moved back into the forefront of service to professionals with our Regional Professional Auditions. We are connecting with education through our work with state-wide Thespians. Now we hope to provide even more service through the workshops that we're setting up for the Conclaves in April.

Conclaves -- OK, it's kind of a fancy term for Convention, except that we want the divisions to relate to each other their needs and share with each other their experiences. We hope to bring in a wonderful workshop presenter -- Kent Brown (I may know about this for sure by press time.) Kent is a playwright and director who has adjudicated for us before and is wonderful at conducting workshops on acting and directing. I am hoping that educational theatre people, from

K-college, will take part in his directing workshops, and that community theatre directors will as well. I'm hoping that actors from both these divisions will act in the sample scenes for those workshops. We'll get you more information about this in the Conclave flyer.

In addition to the divisional meetings and workshops, we're going to pilot the KanFest Showcase of Touring Artists. This will be a unique opportunity for presenters to take a look at the artists that are on the KTP Roster, and for all of us to take a look at the work that is going on across the state. We will be entertained on both Friday and Saturday night as well! In addition to the KTP artists, we hope to have a few guests as well. The weekend will tentatively be held at the downtown Holiday Inn, Topeka, Kansas, on April 4th - 6th.

So here's how you can mark your calendars:

January 8th-10th, State Thespian Conference, AKT Sponsors Max Bush Workshops, Springfield, MO

January 11th, AKT Board Meeting, Topeka, 1:00 PM
Conclave planning

February 28, Regional Professional Auditions, Kansas City

April 3rd-5th, KanFest Showcase and AKT Conclaves, Topeka, Kansas

AND MORE TO COME;

In addition to above, we hope to host a meeting of

presenters at the Conclave, to organize block booking of touring artists, etc.

And . . . we hope to host a meeting in Wichita of the Kansas Historic Theatres. More on that in the next newsletter.

If you have other ideas, call Erin, call or fax or e-mail Ric and we'll see what we can do.

--Ric Averill, Executive Director

P.S. My e-mail address is 74434.655@Compuserve.com (Unless you are also on CompuServe, in which case the period becomes a comma.)

More Theatre Listings. . .

Community Theatres

Russell Community Theatre

The Imaginary Invalid by Moliere
October 7-11

Richard Cory by A.R. Gurney
April 28-May 2 1998

The Odd Couple (female version) by Neil Simon
July 7-11 1998

College/University Theatres

Baker University Theatre

Noises Off by Michael Frayne
November 13-15, 20-22 8 p.m.

A...My Name is Alice by Jean Silver and Julianne Boyd
March 12-14 8 p.m. March 15 2 p.m.

The Fantastics by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt
April 23-25 8 p.m. April 16 2 p.m.

Association of Kansas Theatre December 1997

Coffeyville Community College

Grease by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey
November 6-8 7:30 p.m.
November 9 2 p.m.

Student Directed One-Act Plays
December 5-6 7:30 p.m.

The Five of Us by Len Jenkins
February 6-7 7:30 p.m.
February 8 2 p.m.

The Diviners by James Leonard
April 2-4 7:30 p.m. April 5 2 p.m.

James and the Giant Peach
Children's Summer Theatre 1998

Highland Community College

Egad, What a Cad!
November 20-21

Children's Theatrical Production
February 19 10 a.m., 1 p.m.
February 20 10 a.m., 1 & 7 p.m.

Spring Musical
April 23, 24 8 p.m.
April 25 2 p.m.

Professional Theatre Companies

Theatre in Shawnee Mission Park

1998 Summer Line-up

The Pajama Game

Forty-Second Street

Cinderella

Big River

Other Announcements-

Wanted! -

Second Production of award-winning play, in Kansas, by anyone who enjoys working with a flexible writer capable of fine-tuning a good script.

Abide with Me, by Thomas Fox Averill, was the first winner of the Great Plains Play Competition sponsored by the University Of Kansas Theatre, April/May 1997. Director Jack Wright and writer Tom Averill took the winning script through a thorough re-write, and won accolades like this one from Jan Biles of the Lawrence Journal World: "If Kansas ever decides to adopt a state play, *Abide with Me* should be it. Averill's play is poignant and funny. Most of all it's an honest look at life in small-town Kansas."

A brief description of the play: *Abide with Me* features William Jennings Bryan Oleander and seven other citizens from Here, Kansas. It is a play about the double loss that comes with the death of individuals and the death of a viable small town. In it, William Jennings Bryan Oleander learns to accept the recent death of his wife, learns to love again--both a woman, and life--and teaches the rest of the community some lessons in the happen-ness--the acceptance

and celebration of things as they happen: to towns, to ways of living, to individuals.

Abide With Me is rich in the history and traditions of Kansas, and of the little place called Here; the play takes its structure from the round of holidays celebrated in Here from one Kansas day to the next, including Valentine's Day, Fourth of July and Christmas. It is a humorous, but touching look at the fundamental need to adjust to and celebrate all the things which are most difficult: grief, loss, old age, change, love.

If anyone is interested in taking a look at the play, scripts and a rehearsal tape of the KU production are available from:
Tom Averill
Writer-in residence
Professor of English
Washburn University
Topeka, KS 66621
(785) 231-1010 x 1448
(785) 354-7451

AKT Still Looking For Phone Books. . .

If you have an extra phone book you are willing to part with, AKT could take it off of your hands. Help us stay in touch with everyone in Kansas!

If you would like to donate one, give us a call at (800) 343-2779. Erin will let you know if we need your city's phone book. Thank you!

Call for pictures!

AKT is looking for pictures of whatever it is you do. Erin Kessler is putting together a display/scrapbook for AKT. We would love to display what our member theatres are doing. Send to:

AKT

c/o Erin Kessler
P.O. Box 1873
Lawrence, KS 66044

AACT Festival. . .

We are looking for a host site for 1999. Have any ideas or suggestions? Call (800) 343-2779.

Ask AKT Directory -

The directory is expected to be completed and mailed by mid-December. The directory will only be sent to members and those who have paid to be listed in the directory's Yellow Pages. So if you have not renewed your membership, now is the time!

On behalf of the AKT board and staff. . .

Happy Holidays



Awards. . .

We want to get started early this year - we will be taking nominations for awards. The deadline is January 15, 1998. A list of the awards is given below:

Kansas Theatre Hall of Fame (lifetime achievement)

Steven B. Cathy Award
(business or individual contribution to the arts)

Outstanding Achievement Award

(theatre or individual with unique program or promise recognized)

Secondary Administrator Award

(administrative support for the arts)

Theatre Teacher Award

(outstanding theatre program or individual)

If you would like to nominate someone, please fill the form to the right and send it to:

AKT Award Nominations

P.O. Box 1873

Lawrence, KS 66044

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Reason for nomination:
(you may attach a letter)

Person Nominating: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

1997-1998 AKT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check here to indicate type of membership action:

☐ New ☐ Renewal

For more information, call the AKT office at 800-343-2779.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS VALID UNTIL AUGUST 31, 1998

Category of membership:

☐ Student--\$15 ☐ Individual--\$35 ☐ Contributing--\$35+
*any contribution above \$35 will go to the Kephart Endowment Fund.
☐ Organizational Member--\$60 (includes 2 representatives and 3 students)
☐ Organizational Team--\$200 (includes up to 8 representatives and 3 students)

For Individual / Contributing / Student Memberships

Name _____
AKT Affiliation(s): ☐ Community Theatre ☐ Children's Theatre
☐ Professional Theatre ☐ Historical Theatre ☐ University/College ☐ Secondary

Organization (if desired): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Bus. Phone: () _____ Res. Phone: () _____

Fax: () _____ Internet/E-Mail: _____

For Organizational Member / Organizational Team Memberships:

Organization Name: _____

Primary Member / Contact Person: _____
AKT Affiliation(s): ☐ Community Theatre ☐ Children's Theatre
☐ Professional Theatre ☐ Historical Theatre ☐ University/College ☐ Secondary

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Bus. Phone: () _____ Res. Phone: () _____

Fax: () _____ Internet/E-Mail: _____

Please attach a separate page with additional members' names, addresses, phone, fax and e-mail to authorize membership and for publication in the membership directory.

Please make checks payable to: AKT, P.O. Box 1873 Lawrence, KS 66044

ASK AKT

We are putting together a directory of theatres, resource people within theatres, resources available from theatres and just about anything you want. Ultimately, this will be similar to an expanded membership directory or "Yellow Pages" of theatre. In order to do this, we need your help. We will list members and member theatres within divisions, but we would also like to list people by what they do or what they can provide. Example:

Children's Theatre

Wall, Deb address, etc. SCT

Wichita Children's Theatre address, etc.

Design

Naylor, Tony address, etc.

Reaney, Mark address, etc.

Improvisation Teachers

Frank, Mark address, etc.

Oversize Props

Ringer, Delores address, etc.

In order to accomplish this we need you to provide us with your needs -- what you would like in the directory, and your offerings -- what you can give, share or sell. Please fill out the needed information below.

Form:

Your Name: _____

Name of Theatre (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Resources:

What you have to offer, share or sell: _____

What would you like to find, buy, book: _____

(You may use additional pages if necessary. Please be concise.)

Jed Davis
2602 Louisiana
Lawrence, KS 66046-4662

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Lawrence, KS 66044-1873

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